Dear Harold, 10/19/95

Thanks so much for sending that Washington Post series on race relations. I have already put some of it to use in my class. My colleague, a black woman who is the director of community relations for the city, was also impressed with what I shared with her. Ignorance and fear seem to characterize the way various groups think about each other, especially whites and blacks. Her office, along with the city police, are currently investigating a racial incident involving the KKK vandalizing the property of an Asian family which has moved into an all-white neighborhood. She said she got a tip from an anonymous caller that a prominent local attorney may be behind it -- apparently this guy hates "foreigners".

In our class we have also been discussing the aftermath of the O.J. Simpson trial. The reaction of many whites I find appalling, blaming the predominantly black jury, as noted in some of the columns you sent. I believe another factor is that the press throughout the trial seemed to play up the prosecution and downplay or even ridicule the defense, so when they reached a verdict so quickly many assumed it was just because they were biased in favor of Simpson, a black man. Our students did not endorse this view of the jury, but it clearly seems to be widespread elsewhere, especially on the talk-show circuit.

Give my regards to Lillian.

Best,

Gary